BEST COPY AVAILABLE

DEPARTMENT OF STATE A/CDC/MR

DATE

The Honorable
[illegible],
House of Representatives.

[illegible] Mr. Sullivan's [illegible] Section [illegible] Kennedy Center in the [illegible] [illegible] Sullivan, that [illegible] Sullivan family has any knowledge of Mr. Sullivan's whereabouts and, if not, to try to obtain further information about him to assist us in our efforts to try and locate him through the Salvadoran authorities.

To date, the Embassy and the Salvadoran authorities have made extensive efforts to try and locate Mr. Sullivan. The Embassy personnel have checked local and state jails and prisons, and have interviewed hotel personnel, taxi drivers, waitresses, Jewish representatives, missionaries and airline personnel. In addition, there has been extensive local press coverage in El Salvador, including the publication of Mr. Sullivan's picture and description, as well as radio and television announcements asking for information about him. To date all our efforts to locate him have been unsuccessful.

The Embassy has also been in contact at the highest levels with the Salvadoran Government regarding their efforts to locate Mr. Sullivan. The President of El Salvador has personally assured our Ambassador that Mr. Sullivan is not being held by the Salvadoran authorities and that every effort is being made to determine his whereabouts including the possibility of a nationwide alert to be on the lookout for him.

It is my understanding that the Sullivan family has again suggested that the International Red Cross be requested to physically search prisons in San Salvador to try to locate Mr. Sullivan. While I understand the Sullivan family's reasons for making such a request, it is the considered opinion of our Embassy in El Salvador as well as the responsible officers in the Department of State that such a request would be highly inappropriate and that it would most probably be counterproductive. The Salvadoran Government, at the highest level, has assured us that Mr. Sullivan is not being held by the Government and there appears to be no good reason to question those assurances. Our Embassy has, however, been instructed to ensure that any members of the International Red Cross now in El Salvador are aware Mr. Sullivan is missing, and that any information which might come to their attention regarding his whereabouts be reported to our Embassy immediately.

[illegible] question as to what [illegible] be available to [illegible] total reliance on [illegible] entertained in this regard for Mr. Sullivan. While it is true that our Foreign Service posts around the world have neither the authority nor the resources to conduct [illegible] investigations in cases such as this, we do [illegible] tion by the host government which has not only the authority but the mobility and physical resources to [illegible] such cases. We, of course, provide [illegible] whatever information we are able to [illegible] and the circumstances of his/her [illegible] been cases similar to this in the past in which family friends have opted to hire the services of a private investigator. I am not certain, given the [illegible] El Salvador, that this avenue would be [illegible] productive. Should the family wish to [illegible] tive we will be happy to have the [illegible] this is a feasible course of action and, if so, how [illegible] to carry it out.

I hope the above information adequately answers your questions about the efforts our Embassy has taken thus far, and that this information will be helpful to you in your dealings with the Sullivan family.

Sincerely,

Walter L. Cutler
Acting Assistant Secretary
for Congressional Relations

bcc: S/S-S-NMorris

CA/OCS/EMR-RWinge
1/30/81- x25225
S/S 8100616
Ltr. to Sec. Haig
dated 1/26/81 - Advance
copy -- unnumbered

CA/OCS/EMR-LAGiamprocaro
RWinge
CA/OCS-LPCoelm
CA-RSPritts
ARA/CEN-MCDarry
H-DLMrizek